

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A feeding-stimulating agent~~method of stimulating feeding, comprising administering an effective amount of relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, to a mammal in need thereof.

2. **(Currently Amended)** ~~An agent for~~A method of increasing body weight, comprising administering an effective amount of relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, to a mammal in need thereof.

3. **(Currently Amended)** ~~An agent for~~A method of increasing fat weight, comprising administering an effective amount of relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, to a mammal in need thereof.

4. **(Original)** A method of screening for a compound which stimulates feeding or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of
(A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell containing a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

5. **(Previously Presented)** A method of screening for a compound which stimulates or suppresses feeding or a salt thereof, comprising the step of
(A) contacting relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

6. **(Original)** The method of screening for a compound which stimulates or suppresses feeding or a salt thereof according to claim 5, wherein it comprises the step of
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

7. **(Original)** The method of screening according to any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

8. (Original) The method of screening according to claim 7, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide containing the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

9. (Original) A kit for screening for a compound which stimulates feeding or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of

(A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and

(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

10. (Previously Presented) A kit for screening for a compound which stimulates or suppresses feeding or a salt thereof, comprising the step of

(A) contacting relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

11. (Original) The kit for screening for a compound which stimulates or suppresses feeding or a salt thereof according to claim 10, wherein it comprises the step of

(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

12. (Original) The kit for screening according to claim 9, 10, or 11, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

13. (Original) The kit for screening according to claim 12, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A therapeutic agent for the treatment of~~ method of treating a disease which requires body weight gain, comprising administering an effective amount of relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, to a mammal in need thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~method according to claim 14, wherein said disease is anorexia or cachexia.

16. (Original) A method of screening for a compound which increases body weight or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of

(A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell containing a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and

(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of screening for a compound which increases or decreases body weight or a salt thereof, comprising the step of

(A) contacting relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

18. (Original) The method of screening for a compound which increases or decreases body weight or a salt thereof according to claim 17, wherein it comprises the step of

(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

19. (Original) The method of screening according to any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

20. (Original) The method of screening according to claim 19, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

21. (Original) A kit for screening for a compound which increases body weight or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of

(A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell containing a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and

(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

22. (Previously Presented) A kit for screening for a compound which increases or decreases body weight or a salt thereof, comprising the step of
(A) contacting relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

23. (Original) The kit for screening for a compound which increases or decreases body weight or a salt thereof according to claim 22, wherein it comprises the step of
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

24. (Original) The kit for screening according to claim 21, 22, or 23, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

25. (Original) The kit for screening according to claim 24, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

26. (Original) A method of screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of
(A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell comprising a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

27. (Previously Presented) A method of screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof, comprising the step of
(A) contacting relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

28. (Original) The method of screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof according to claim 27, wherein it comprises the step of
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

29. (Original) The method of screening according to any one of claims 26 to 28, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

30. (Original) The method of screening according to claim 29, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

31. (Original) A kit for screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of
(A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell containing a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

32. (Previously Presented) A kit for screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof, comprising the step of
(A) contacting relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

33. (Original) The kit for screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof according to claim 32, wherein it comprises the step of
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

34. (Original) The method of screening according to any one of claims 31 to 33, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

35. (Original) The kit for screening according to claim 34, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~An agent for~~A method of suppressing feeding, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity, or a salt thereof, to a mammal in need thereof.

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent-method~~method according to claim 36, wherein the compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity is a compound obtained by the screening method of claim 7 or 8.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~An agent for~~A method of reducing body weight, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity, or a salt thereof, to a mammal in need thereof.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent-method~~method according to claim 38, wherein the compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity is a compound obtained by the screening method of claim 19 or 20.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~An agent for~~A method of reducing fat weight, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity, or a salt thereof, to a mammal in need thereof.

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent-method~~method according to claim 40, wherein the compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity is a compound obtained by the screening method of claim 29 or 30.

42. (Currently Amended) A ~~therapeutic agent for the treatment of~~method of treating obesity, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity, or a salt thereof, to a mammal in need thereof.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~method according to claim 42, wherein the compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity is a compound obtained by the screening method of any one of claims 19, 20, 29, and 30.

44. (Currently Amended) A ~~therapeutic agent for the treatment of~~method of treating diabetes, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity, or a salt thereof, to a mammal in need thereof.

45. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~method according to claim 44, wherein the compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity is a compound obtained by the screening method of any one of claims 19, 20, 29, and 30.

46. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~method according to any one of claims 36 to 45, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

47. (Original) A method of screening for a compound to stimulate or suppress feeding or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of administering a compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor to a human or a non-human organism and then measuring the amount of feeding after administration.

48. (Original) The method according to claim 47, wherein the compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor is a compound obtained by the method of any one of claims 4 to 8.

49. (Original) A method of screening for a compound which increases or decreases body weight or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of administering a compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor to a human or a non-human organism and then measuring body weight after administration.

50. (Original) The method according to claim 49, wherein the compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor is a compound obtained by the method of any one of claims 16 to 20.

51. (Original) A method of screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of administering a compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor to a human or a non-human organism and then measuring indices of obesity after administration.

52. (Original) The method according to claim 51, wherein the compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor is a compound obtained by the method of any one of claims 26 to 30.